

**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2015 2:35 PM

**Subject:** Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony  
**Attachments:** 20150507143504\_wcbdotestimony\_OED\_050715.pdf

## ~~Speaker Registration~~/Testimony

All fields marked "(\*)" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.  
Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

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Name(\*) Darin Uesugi  
Phone (\*) 808-382-8066  
Email (\*) darin@utopiaus.com  
Meeting Date (\*) 2015-05-12  
Council/PH Committee (\*) Budget  
Agenda Item (\*) OED budget reduction  
Your position on the matter (\*) Oppose  
Representing (\*) Organization  
Organization Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (\*) No  
Written Testimony  
Testimony Attachment 20150507143504\_wcbdotestimony\_OED\_050715.pdf  
Accept Terms and Conditions (\*) 1

MISC. COM. 1562



# WAHIAWA

Community Based Development Organization (WCBDO)

PO Box 861191, Wahiawa HI 96786

[info@wahiawaCBDO.org](mailto:info@wahiawaCBDO.org)

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May 7, 2015

Ann Kobayashi, Chair  
Committee on Budget  
City Council, City and County of Honolulu  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony in support of the Office of Economic Development (OED).

Chair Kobayashi and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Office of Economic Development, whose funding has been integral in our kick-starting our economic development agenda.

The Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization (CBDO), a 501(c)3 organization, was formally established to support economic development in the Wahiawa NRSA, of which 56% of the population is low to moderate income residents. In addition, the NRSA is home to the large blocks of agricultural lands in central Oahu. These lands and its economic potential are a key component of the CBDO's 5 year agribusiness plan.

The Wahiawa community grew up as an agricultural center. Plantation camps circled the town, and immigrants and unskilled laborers found ready employment. But for years these once bountiful fields known world-wide for their pineapple gradually have been taken out of production.

The development of a Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) has provided hope for a better future for the Wahiawa community. With its focus on economic development and jobs, community involvement, and improvement in resident well-being, it offers a means to secure funds for the restoration of community pride. It offers a way to bring fallow fields back into production. It affords an opportunity for small businesses, particularly farmers, to earn a living and increase our food security and sustainability.

The Wahiawa CBDO, with the support of Council and the Office of Economic Development, have and continue to work on a number of agribusiness pilot projects which we plan to scale into larger, profitable, businesses creating jobs and developing new markets from the products grown on agricultural lands. Without the support of OED, the CBDO will have difficulty attracting more substantial funds which generally require proof of concept. Community support for agriculture continues to be high. In its most recent survey, the Wahiawa CBDO validated the importance of agriculture and agribusiness to the community and its surrounding neighbors. When queried, respondents ranked their economic development priorities as follows;



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continued

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*Director*

<b>Economic Development Priority</b>	<b>Respondents #1 Priority</b>	<b>Respondents Top 3 Selections</b>
Homeless	26%	62%
Healthcare Services	15%	28%
Agriculture	12%	24%
Crime Reduction	10%	39%
Traffic Improvement	10%	28%
Education	9%	26%
Main Street Renewal	5%	20%

With the support of area residents, industry supporters and businesses, the CBDO recognizes agribusiness as key to its economic development plan. We hope for the continued support of Council and the Office of Economic Development as we work towards our mutually beneficial goals of creating quality jobs and supporting businesses in Honolulu.

Mahalo,

Darin Uesugi  
President,  
Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization

Attachment: Agribusiness Component Schematic.



Wahiawa CBDO Economic Development Program  
**Agribusiness Component**  
Five Year Plan beginning 07/01/14

Farm to Table Production Process

